

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

CD NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Austria/USUR

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR 20 JAN 50

50X1-HUM

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information on
USIA and DDCG

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
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SUPPLEMENT TO
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23 Nov. USIA Advertising Campaign
1949

USIA employees are wondering whether USIA's wide-scale program and accelerated shipments to the Soviet Union are an indication that the Soviets are preparing to liquidate USIA, or whether they are merely trying to meet financial delivery quotas prescribed by higher authorities in Moscow. Meanwhile, USIA employees have noted with interest that USIA is planning to spend a minimum of 20,000 schillings on an advertising campaign to promote the export trade of A/O Avtovo, Automotive and Fine Mechanics Department of USIA.

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Shipments to the Soviet Union

3. During the past week, USIA directed its firms to label Stanko Import, Moscow, instead of the originating firm as the sender on all shipments to the Soviet Union. USIA employees believe the Soviets may have initiated this change not only to disguise the contents of Soviet shipments from Austria but also to evade Austrian customs duties when a State Treaty is concluded.

3 Nov. USIA Sales
1949

4. SHEVCHENKO, Director of USIA's Central Commercial Bureau and Deputy Director General of USIA in charge of commercial matters, has ordered the immediate purchase of 10,000 used gasoline and oil barrels and he has authorized a maximum expenditure of 200 schillings per barrel.** These barrels are to be reconditioned by the USIA-controlled firm, Bahnbedarf A.G., and shipped to Hungary. these barrels and large quantities of gasoline cans have been ordered from USIA by the Hungarian Government.

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Document No. 004
No Change in Class
☒ Reclassified
Class. Changed To: TS
Auth: HR 70-2
Date: 31 MAY 1978

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008 50X1-HUM

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DISG Sales

5. DDSG, Soviet-controlled Danube shipping firm, is selling large quantities of raw materials, semi-finished and finished products valued at a total of 320,000 schillings for 315,000 schillings. Among the items to be sold are 145 tons of semi-finished ironware and new and used railroad rails, valued at 65,000 schillings, which Director SITOV is trying to sell from the Korneu-burg shipyard for a total of 228,000 schillings.

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**

Comment: This price far exceeds the current market price for used barrels.

Comment:

USIA had ordered 20,000 gasoline barrels owing to an acute shortage of gasoline storage and shipping facilities in Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

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